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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:  
Date: August 21, 2009 Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: 

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Appln. of: Satoru ADACHI et al.

Appln. No.: 12/191,563

Filed: August 14, 2008

For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD,  
IMAGE DECODING METHOD,  
IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS,  
IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS,  
IMAGE ENCODING PROGRAM, AND  
IMAGE DECODING PROGRAM

Examiner: Patel, Jayesh A.

Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No.: 1071

Attorney Docket No: 9683/293

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed May 26, 2009, reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following Amendments and the Remarks.

An Amendment to the specification begins on page 2 of this communication.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 3 of this communication.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this communication.